

ReSources

NOVEMBER 2012

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You're leading the way to a Bright Green San José



Every day, recycling trucks in San José pick up roughly 400 tons of material in our neighborhoods. Together with businesses, San José is recycling **71 percent** of the waste we generate. This high recycling rate is making our community a nationally recognized recycling leader, and we are well on our way to meeting our Zero Waste goal of keeping 75 percent of San José's waste out of landfills by 2013 and 100 percent by 2022.

Our collective recycling helped the Recycle Plus program win the 2012 Green City Award from the national magazine *Waste & Recycling News*. The award honored San José for having the most effective residential recycling program for a large city in the United States. The award also commended our city for using innovative ways to educate residents about the value of recycling, including the use of social media and flash mobs.

Congratulations! Your recycling habits are helping to make San José a cleaner, greener place to live, as well as a model for other cities.

114,000 tons = **57,000 cars!**
the weight of
of material recycled
by San José residents
per year

Reusable bags are helping our creeks



Since its inception in January, San José's Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance has become a model for the rest of the nation. Neighboring cities like Sunnyvale and others as far away as Chicago are inquiring about our transition from plastic bags to reusable bags in retail establishments.

We are already seeing positive impacts in our rivers and creeks. Take a bow! You've made a difference.

The percentage of plastic bag litter found during San José creek cleanups has decreased.



Mark your calendar: Holiday collection changes


Your collection day may be different this 2012 Holiday Season.

If your usual collection day falls on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22, your collection will take place on Friday, Nov. 23. If Friday is your usual collection day, it will shift to Saturday during Thanksgiving week.

This year, both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Tuesday, which means that collection for Tuesday through Friday will be *delayed by one day* during those weeks. If your usual collection day is Tuesday, it will move to Wednesday. If it is on Wednesday, it will take place on Thursday, and so forth for the rest of that week.

You can find your normal collection day online at sjrecycles.org/lookup.asp



 Like **LIKE US on Facebook and you might win a FREE pickup of three large items!**

Tell us your favorite way to receive information from Recycle Plus, and you'll be entered for a chance to win a FREE pickup of up to three large items at your curbside. Examples are appliances, furniture, and televisions. Find out more and like us at facebook.com/BrightGreenSanJose

Resolve to be Brighter Green in 2013

With these easy online tools, reducing your impact on the environment is just one click away.

Save

Start saving today by signing up at greenenergymatch.org. Green Energy Match, a City-sponsored program, provides free customized energy-saving steps based on your household's energy usage. Hundreds of San José households are already participating, with most participants saving more than \$200 a year on their energy bills by making simple changes and small upgrades.



Reduce

Opt out of receiving unwanted store catalogs, phone books, coupons, and credit solicitations by signing up for Catalog Choice at <http://sanjose.catalogchoice.org>



Recycle

Drop off your unwanted house paint at one of 20 paint retail locations in Santa Clara County. To find a drop-off site near you, visit hhw.org. Paint must be in the original can with a label. Please do not place paint in your garbage cart or pour it down the drain.

Find

San José is saving resources and no longer mails recycling and garbage service collection calendars. Instead, you can find this information including your garbage, recycling, and yard trimmings collection day; street sweeping schedule; and service provider contact information at sjrecycles.org/lookup.asp

STREET SWEEPING KEEPS OUR CREEKS CLEAN!

What's the connection between storm drains and street sweepers?

Streets are swept monthly to protect our environment. A street sweeper's primary job is to remove metal particles and hazardous waste left by passing vehicles. Although virtually invisible, these particles can wash into storm drains, and reach our creeks and Bay, where they can be harmful to fish and wildlife. You can help keep our streets safe and free of these contaminants:

Move your vehicle on sweep day by 6:00 a.m. One parked car means a space equal to nearly three cars that cannot be swept because the sweeper must avoid the car.

Prune street tree branches to at least 14 feet above the street as sweepers need to steer clear of low branches. Street tree pruning is the responsibility of the property owner and does require a permit. Free pruning permits are available by emailing arborist@sanjoseca.gov or calling (408) 794-1901.



Our storm drains empty into the nearest creek — only clean rain should travel to these drains!

Before sweep day, **rake up any leaves** from the street and store them for the next collection day. As with low branches, street sweepers must steer clear of yard trimmings and leaf piles.



Did you know?

Each month, street sweepers clean more than **3,100 miles** of neighborhood streets and collect more than **631,000 pounds** of debris. This helps keep pollutants out of San José's **30,000** storm drains!

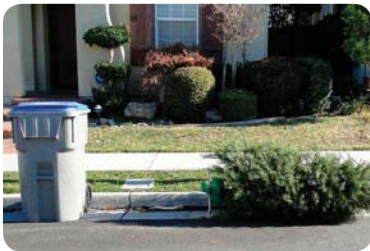
Recycle Plus: Curbside Tips



Q: *How do I dispose of used cooking oil and grease?*

A: Avoid an expensive plumber's visit by properly disposing of fats, oil, and grease.

These items should not be poured down the drain. Instead, pour used grease into an empty can. Let the grease harden and then dispose of the can with your garbage. For used cooking oil, schedule a free drop-off appointment at hhw.org or call (408) 299-7300.



Q: *Can I place my holiday tree at the curb for pickup?*

A: Yes, when the holiday season is over, just place your tree at

the curb between **Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012** and **Friday, Feb. 1, 2013** for free tree recycling. Natural and flocked trees are accepted. Be sure to remove the stand, tinsel, and decorations. The tree will not be collected with these items on it as they are not recyclable. If your tree is taller than five feet, cut it into shorter pieces and place them in a pile.

Take your old cell phone to the zoo

An outing to the zoo can help the environment: Donate your unwanted wireless phones and pagers at the Happy Hollow Park & Zoo entrance during your next visit.

Happy Hollow has partnered with Eco-cell, a company that uses recycling to help raise funds for causes. All of the funds raised from the recycled phones at Happy Hollow are donated to the non-profit Orangutan Conservancy. The Conservancy helps protect one of the most critically endangered species on earth, the Orangutan, and its habitat.

For more information and hours of operation visit hhpz.org



**RECYCLE YOUR CELL PHONES AT
HAPPY HOLLOW**

ATTENTION MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEX OWNERS

California Assembly Bill 341 went into effect on July 1, 2012 requiring recycling at all multi-family complexes with five or more units. If your complex does not already subscribe to recycling services, call (408) 535-3500 for assistance.

A little food can spoil a lot of recyclables

Holiday feasts are a great way to celebrate with family and friends. When the party's over, be sure to place all food scraps and food-contaminated paper products **in your garbage cart**—not your recycling bin.

Believe it or not, we find many turkey carcasses in the recycling carts during the holiday season! Unfortunately, they and other food waste contaminate valuable recyclables, which then must be disposed of as garbage instead of being made into new products. For example, when food-contaminated paper plates mix with newspaper, the newspaper becomes coated with oil. That greasy newspaper ends up in a landfill instead of being shipped to a paper mill.

This unnecessary waste can be avoided with your help. Put all food and paper touched by food into your garbage cart.



Don't let these contaminate your recyclables!

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of San José Environmental Services Department materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audiotape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling (408) 535-3500 (voice) or (800) 735-2929 (California Relay Service).

Nếu quý vị cần thông tin tiếng Việt, xin gọi (408) 535-3500.

Para obtener esta información en español, llame al (408) 535-3500.



Attend **FREE** workshops to learn backyard and worm composting basics to create a sustainable garden.

2013 Composting Workshops & Bin Sales

Backyard Composting

Turn your grass, leaves and kitchen scraps into a wonderful soil amendment. Green waste and worm composting will be covered.

Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
Visitor & Education Center
438 Coleman Ave.
San José, 95110

Wednesdays,
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 27
June 19
July 24
Aug. 21

Backyard Composting

(see description above)

Emma Prusch Park, Meeting Hall
647 S. King Rd.
San José, 95116

Saturdays,
10:00 a.m. –
Noon

May 4
Sept. 14
(rain or shine)

Let Worms Eat Your Garbage

Step-by-step fundamentals of composting using red wiggler worms. Create a worm habitat with a worm bin, and use your valuable worm castings.

Emma Prusch Park, Meeting Hall
647 S. King Rd.
San José, 95116

Saturday,
10:00 a.m. –
Noon

June 1
(rain or shine)

Space is limited. Register TODAY at reducewaste.org or call the Rotline at (408) 918-4640.

Workshops are brought to you by the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission and the City of San José.



Get Your Compost Bin — Dirt Cheap

Compost bins are sold at all of the above scheduled workshops. You do not have to attend the workshop to purchase a bin. San José residents with a valid ID, or Recycle Plus bill and picture ID, can purchase the following bins at a discounted price. Check and cash accepted — NO credit cards.



The City reserves the right to offer different bin models in the event of a sellout.

Contact Us

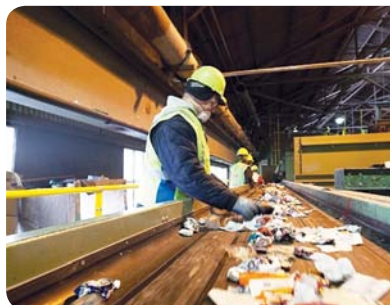
Your feedback is valuable! Tell us what you think or get answers to your questions:

Online:
sjrecycles.org

E-mail:
customerservice@sanjoseca.gov

Mail:
Environmental Services Department
Attn: Recycle Plus
200 East Santa Clara Street, 10th Floor
San José, CA 95113

Phone:
(408) 535-3500



Tour a Materials Recycling Facility

Are you curious about what happens to recyclables after we pick them up? Find out by taking a fascinating tour of a materials recovery facility.

Sign up at calwaste.com or
greenteam.com/processing-recyclables.html